

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Town of Greenville

Land Stewardship/AEA Committee

Monday, 17 July 2017 (5:00 pm)

Greenville Town Hall

Present: Larry Bentle, Sally Bowers, Eric Fowle, Dave Johnson, John Julius, Amber Laska, Tim Menning, Brenda Miler (guest), Zen Miller, Steve Nagy, Pete Schroeder, Jeff Steinacker, and Dave Tebo.

(Next Mtg: Tuesday, 29 August 2017, 5:00 pm, Town Hall)

1. Call to order. 5:03 pm.
2. Approval of 6 June 2017 meeting minutes. Draft minutes were approved (motion by Dave J., Zen 2nd).
3. YMCA unfarmed property, Brenda Johnson, Fox West (Greenville) YMCA Executive Director, addressed our committee as to what might be done with 13 acres of unfarmed, YMCA land that is next to the Y facility. Suggestions were: 1) Contact Mike Woods as he farms the adjacent farmland and may be interested in renting the Y's land. 2) Perhaps an entrepreneur farmer could use it for growing "farm to market" crops. 3) Develop a community garden. 4) Place it in grassland and mow occasionally to control weeds (contact our county land conservation dept. for information).
4. Committee Membership. Sally Bowers has accepted our invitation to join our committee. Welcome Sally and thank you for all your help to enable our committee's communication and initiate projects with the Hortonville & Greenville schools.
5. Community Ag education.
 - a. Amber Laska related that the HASD Polar Academy would be held 14-18 August. Contrary to information in our 6 June meeting notes, the Polar Academy is a program designed for teachers to gain required, continuing education credits and is not specifically for new teacher orientation. Credits for successful Polar Academy course completion are awarded via Viterbo Univ., LaCross, WI. Nine teachers are enrolled this year.
 - i. Amber had made a request at our last meeting if tours of various Agribusiness facilities could be arranged for Academy participants. Zen reported that Ag tours for the group are scheduled on 18 August to visit a robotic dairy operation and

- also a beef/swine facility. In addition, **Steve** is arranging for the group to tour his Homestead Meadows Farm event center.
- ii. **Dave T.** will work on gathering information of the tours for an article in a future Greenville Newsletter.
- b. Our Committee's award given to Hannah Goulet on Hortonville High's Scholarship Night (3 May) was highlighted in our 6 June 2017 meeting notes. **Attached I** is a copy of the Post Crescent article Dave T. obtained on-line.
 - c. The pumpkin patch on Steve's farm, designed by Michele Johnson (HASD teacher) and Jim Beard (FVTC retired horticulture instructor) is growing well. It was planted and is being cared for by students recruited by Michelle. Please see 6 June notes for further information.
 - d. Jeff raised the topic/question that information should be made available regarding agricultural use of bio-solids to HASD and the community at large. This objective would be to heighten awareness of the benefits of applying bio-solids to cropland, thus reducing the amount of chemical fertilizers used and enhance overall soil health. Disposal and constructive use of bio-solids by city waste facilities will be an increasingly important issue in coming years.
6. AEA signage.
- a. Order quantity-raw material.
 - i. Individual landowner signs cannot just be ordered piece by piece. The raw materials (aluminum blanks and steel stakes) need to be ordered in quantities of at least 20 or more to meet the RJ Marx quoted price. The price for 20 blanks and stakes is \$1,230. It is the smallest number that can be ordered to get the stated per-piece price. It was discussed on how we could proceed to get some signs up in the near future.
 - b. Funding options-path forward.
 - i. A sign sub-committee of **Larry, Pete and Dave T.** will address sign funding and how best to proceed. Perhaps certain Agribusinesses would be willing to donate some funds. Eric knows some businesses or institutions that he would be willing to approach.
 - ii. Dave T. will see what is needed to set up a Town account into which we could place raised funds for committee-sanctioned programs.
 - c. Schedule. Sub-committee to determine.

7. Goals; Greenville Land Stewardship/AEA.
 - a. Eric distributed the latest draft of committee goals that now contain input from several committee members. After a brief discussion it was decided that **each person should review Eric's draft and by 1 August return comments/edits** to further consolidate and condense our goals.
 - b. Zen brought up the point that our committee should establish by-laws or a similar document. This would help structure the committee in a more formal fashion and set guidelines for committee activities. Zen said his UW-Extension office would have some information that he would forward. Also, Steve said he would be able to send out a skeleton outline that could help get started.
 - c. Dave J. handed out a booklet for committee entitled Landowner Conservation Options-a Guide to Conserving your Land for Future Generations. It is published by Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust organization located in Appleton, WI. Dave suggested that a speaker could present at a future meeting.
8. Web site. The Town's website is being revised and upgraded. We have requested that the Land Stewardship Committee and our AEA be easily accessed when the upgrade is complete. Also, that posting of information to the site be an easy operation.
9. Current LS/AEA news.
 - a. Pat Koeknke, an AEA member, is in the process of selling her farm.
 - b. John said that Calumet County has an Ag tourism group/committee that may have useful information for us. **John** will check with them should they will have a booth at the upcoming Farm Technology Days, Algoma, WI.
10. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm (motion made by Pete, Steve 2nd).

Parking lot for future meeting(s):

- a) TDR (Transfer of Development Rights).
- b) Purchase of Development Rights.
- c) AEA tax credits.

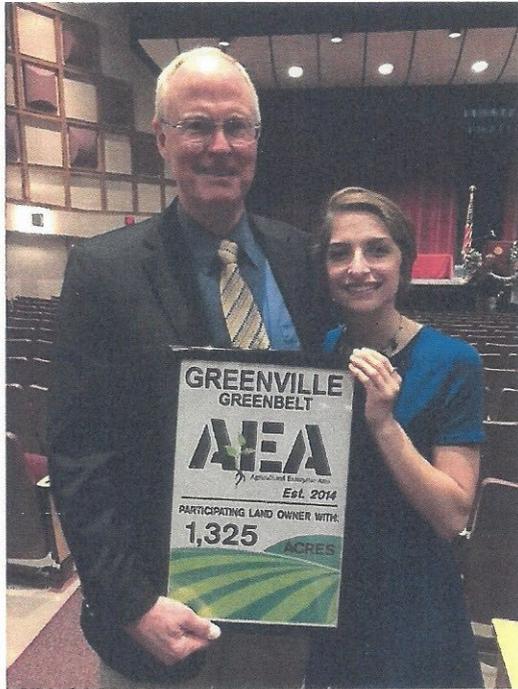
Attachment I

Hortonville student creates logo for Greenville AEA

USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 4:54 p.m. CT June 19, 2017 | Updated 7:47 a.m. CT June 20, 2017

(Photo: Courtesy of Dave Tebo)

54CONNECTTWEETLINKEDINCOMMENTEMAILMORE



As of Jan. 1, 2016, 6,228 acres in western and southern Greenville have been recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection as part of an Agricultural Enterprise Area.

DATCP created the AEA program in 2009 to allow communities to identify certain areas they would like to see maintained for agricultural purposes. While no formal law or zoning dictates the use of the AEA for agriculture, owners can receive a tax credit if they are willing to set aside their land for farming purposes for a 15-year period.

RELATED: [Schenck workshop focuses on managers](#)

RELATED: [Housing growth in Fox Cities](#)

Greenville's Land Stewardship Committee is working to increase the awareness of the AEA. Committee members have been working with the Hortonville Area School District to educate teachers and students.

Student Hannah Goulet helped create a logo for the Greenville AEA that will be used on a sign identification for landowners within the designated district. Larry Bentle of the Land Stewardship Committee honored Hannah at the May 3 HASD High School Scholarship night with a framed copy of her creative work and an appreciation check of \$500.

For more information, contact Larry Bentle at larry.a.bentle@gmail.com or 920-840-6715.